

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Malcolm X: a course of conduct to emulate

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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U.S. war exercises threaten N. Korea

BY BEN JOYCE

In a provocative move against North Korea, Washington opened “war games” in South Korea March 9 involving more than 26,000 U.S. troops, 30,000 South Korean troops, and a U.S. aircraft carrier.

The exercise is taking place as North Korea gears up for the launch of a communications satellite, which Washington and Tokyo claim is a missile test and have threatened to shoot down.

The moves are part of more than 50 years of hostility on the part of Washington toward North Korea—since the workers and peasants of that country made a socialist revolution and, in the Korean War, issued U.S. imperialism its first military defeat.

Since then, Washington has maintained a troop presence on the Korean Peninsula and carried out regular exercises with South Korean troops throughout much of the past five decades. The “training exercises” have taken place every year since 1997. This

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World trade plummets, bosses fear instability

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

World trade, which had quadrupled since 1982, is now plummeting as part of the deepening worldwide recession. In Asia, where production is largely geared toward exports, this has had a devastating impact on toilers, raising fears among the capitalist rulers of growing instability and protests.

Unemployment in the United States reached a 25-year high, officially at 8.1 percent, according to the latest Labor Department report. Increased layoffs are expected to continue over the coming months, as many job cuts already announced by companies have not yet been implemented. Since the recession began in December 2007, employers have cut 4.4 million jobs, almost half in the last three months.

In South Korea, 103,000 jobs were cut in January as exports declined by 34 percent. In February, exports dropped another 17 percent, for the fourth consecutive monthly drop.

In Singapore exports declined by 35 percent in January. Tens of thousands of

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March 21 demonstrations will protest Afghan, Iraq wars

BY DOUG NELSON

On March 21, the day after the sixth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, thousands are expected to protest Washington’s wars in Afghanistan and Iraq with a national march and rally in Washington and regional actions in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Imperialist troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan!

Build March 21 demonstrations!
—see editorial, p. 10

The protest in Washington will be the first national antiwar demonstration in the United States since President Barack Obama took office.

The main flyers building the action say, “From Iraq to Afghanistan to Palestine—Occupation is a crime.”

The U.S. military announced plans to withdraw 12,000 of its more than 140,000 troops from Iraq this year. As a result of their bloody war there, the U.S. rulers have succeeded in establishing a relatively stable allied regime in Baghdad with an increasingly effective army and police force.

The Obama administration made clear that the U.S. government is planning for a long-term military presence in

Iraq. U.S. officials say Washington will maintain a garrison force of as many as 50,000 troops there after the completion of its “withdrawal,” scheduled to take place over the next year and a half.

The U.S. troop reduction in Iraq also serves to free up forces for a major escalation of the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, where the imperialist armies face a more difficult challenge. Last month Obama approved sending an additional 17,000 U.S. troops there—a 45 percent increase.

The missile strikes in Pakistan continue.

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Order to arrest Sudan president is pretext for imperialist intervention

BY BEN JOYCE

Tensions between imperialist powers and the Sudanese government sharpened March 4 after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir. The warrant accuses al-Bashir of several counts of “war crimes” and “crimes against humanity” for the Sudanese government’s military operations to suppress various national minorities in the country’s Darfur region.

According to the UN, some 300,000

Chicago workers plan for May Day march

Organize unions, fight for legalization!



Militant/Jorge Lertora

Workers and students at March 7 Chicago-area conference discussed attacks on immigrant workers in the midst of economic crisis and rising unemployment. Alfonso Cerda, above, described strike at sign company that won contract for workers.

BY BETSY FARLEY
AND JORGE LERTORA

CHICAGO—More than 70 Chicago-area workers joined a March 7 discussion here on the stepped-up attacks on immigrant workers in the midst of rising unemployment and economic crisis.

The workers’ discussion kicked off an immigrant rights conference initiated by the March 10th Committee, the coalition that organized actions in Chicago of tens of thousands for legalization of the undocumented on May Day the last two

years. The workers assembly was initiated by the Chicago Workers Collaborative. Eighty more people participated in the entire day-long conference.

That evening a plenary session ended with a call to organize the May Day 2009 march for legalization in Chicago.

Sergio, who asked that his last name not be used, explained that Stock Yards Meatpacking Company where he is employed has threatened to fire 22 workers for “No Match” letters. “At first the

Continued on page 4

U.S. talks with Syrian officials seek to pressure Iranian gov’t

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The U.S. government has taken several diplomatic moves aimed at strengthening its position in the Middle East and putting more pressure on Iran.

Washington held talks March 7 with top Syrian officials for the first time since 2005. U.S. secretary of

state Hillary Clinton confirmed the same day that Washington has asked the Turkish government to mediate talks between the United States and Iran.

Daniel Shapiro, a member of President Barack Obama’s National Security Council, and Jeffrey Feltman, acting assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, met with Syrian

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people have been killed and some 2.5 million displaced in the armed conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan since 2003. That year insurgent groups began a revolt against government oppression of national minorities in the south and demanded autonomy. In retaliation, Arab-speaking militias that the rebels say are backed by the government have waged an extermination campaign there against minority groups. These divisions, created by colonial domination

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Unionists in New York rally against cutbacks

BY JANICE LYNN

NEW YORK—Tens of thousands of unionists—including large contingents of teachers, health-care workers, and city and state employees—turned out here March 5 at City Hall to protest government layoffs and cuts in education, health care, and other social programs that are needed by working people.

“Mayor Bloomberg said he is going to cut 14,000 teachers,” Jermaine Cameron, 29, told the *Militant*. “How they’ll do that, we don’t know. There won’t be fewer children to teach. It’s the students who will be most affected,” the Brooklyn teacher from Meyer Levin School said.

“These are serious times for working people,” Margaret Johnson, a nurse technician and member of Service Employees International Union Local 1199, said. Johnson, 55, said she was opposed to pension benefit cuts. “Workers should be able to expect a decent retirement after a lifetime on the job.”

New York governor David Paterson proposes to make up a \$15 billion state budget deficit by cutting \$2.5 billion in education, \$3.2 billion in health care, and taking the balance from social programs for retirees, the disabled, and housing assistance.

New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg has announced plans to solve a \$4 billion “budget crisis” with another round of layoffs, cuts in pension and health-care benefits, an increase in the sales tax to 8.75 percent, elimination of the sales tax exemption on clothes, and imposition of a five-cent tax on plastic grocery bags.

Organizers of the action billed it as a “Rally for New York” and an opportunity for workers to “speak out for fair solutions to budget cuts.” A central demand put forward by speakers, many of them labor officials, was for state tax reform to increase taxes on income over \$250,000.

Signs saying “We want our fair share”; “Protect schools and hospitals”; “One New York Standing Together”; and “Fair Budget for All” dotted the crowd. Participants chanted, “No more cuts!”

Unions sponsoring the action included the United Federation of Teachers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 37; Service Employees International Union Local 1199; Professional Staff Congress; New York City Central Labor Council; and others.

“Over 30 years ago the city, state, and unions came together to resolve the crisis,” Lillian Roberts, executive director of District Council 37, said, referring to 1970s “budget crisis” that resulted in 63,000 municipal employees losing their jobs, including 20,000 teachers and 4,000 hospital workers. “We shared the pain and responsibility,” Roberts

N.Y. socialist mayoral candidate joins union rally



Militant/Peter Thierjung

NEW YORK—Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, speaks with participant in March 5 union rally here against layoffs and cuts in social services. “We need to build a working-class movement that will lead a revolutionary struggle to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and establish a workers and farmers government,” Fein said.

The socialist candidate said such a government would cut the workweek with no cut in pay to spread around the work to provide jobs. It would stop paying the \$3.7 billion in interest given each year to the city’s superrich bondholders, he explained. It would legalize all undocumented workers and enforce affirmative action. It would guarantee universal health care and pensions.

—PETER THIERJUNG

said, “Sacrifice must be shared. The wealthy must pay their fair share.”

Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, campaigned among participants at the action, explaining, “There is no ‘One New York.’”

Fein said, “There are the billionaire

families who confiscate the wealth, all of which is produced by us—working people. Workers should not ‘sacrifice’ or ‘share the pain.’”

Peter Thierjung contributed to this article.

Suit charges torture in death of Chinese immigrant

BY BEN JOYCE

The family of Hiu Lui “Jason” Ng, a Chinese immigrant who died in jail awaiting deportation last August, has filed a suit against the jail and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Immigration cops arrested Ng in New York City in July 2007 for allegedly overstaying his visa. He had no criminal record and had been applying for a green card when he was taken into detention and shuttled through jails and detention centers in three New England states. He ended up at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Center, a privately run jail in Central Falls, Rhode Island.

The lawsuit, filed February 9 on behalf of the family by the American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island, charges several of the defendants with violations of constitutional rights, assault and battery, denial of access to medical care, and denial of access to legal counsel, among other charges.

According to the prosecution, Ng was tortured, denied medical care, and was taunted by facility personnel who

accused him of faking an illness. After complaining of intense pain for several weeks he was taken in shackles to a local hospital where he was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer and a fractured spine. Ng died five days later.

A January investigation by ICE confirms the brutal treatment Ng faced. Surveillance video show him being dragged by corrections personnel into a van for a trip to Hartford, Connecticut, where his lawyers say he was pressured to withdraw all his appeals and accept deportation.

Since the investigation, all ICE detainees have been removed from the Wyatt facility.

Ng was 34 years old at the time of his death. The lawsuit brings charges against both the detention center and ICE, seeking compensation for Ng’s wife and two sons.

THE MILITANT

Legalization for all immigrants now!

The ‘Militant’ covers the fight to defend immigrant rights—from protests demanding a halt to government raids and deportations, to the response to anti-immigrant attacks by thugs, to rallies for legalization of all immigrants like on May 1. Don’t miss a single issue.



Protest in Brooklyn, New York, December 14 to protest killing of Ecuadoran immigrant in attack by thugs.

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Socialist worker joins UCLA mayoral debate

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES—James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of this city, sharply contrasted his campaign to that of his opponents during a February 25 debate here at the University of California at Los Angeles.

“Is there one city that has solved the capitalist crisis?” asked Harris. “The answer is no. That’s because the problem is the capitalist system itself. There are no Los Angeles solutions. That’s why our campaign presents a revolutionary program that defends the interests of the working class worldwide.”

Harris, who works as a meat packer and is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, advocates a revolutionary struggle for measures to defend working people against the spreading capitalist crisis. Among these are organizing and strengthening unions and shortening the workweek with no reduction in pay in order to fight unemployment. Harris calls for a mass public works program to put millions to work at union scale to build the schools, hospitals, transportation systems, and other facilities workers need. In the course of this fight, Harris says, working people need to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers.

The Political Science Student Organization sponsored the debate, which included Harris and seven of the other candidates for mayor. These were independent Walter Moore; Republican

Party candidates Phil Jennerjahn and David Hernandez; Party of Socialism and Liberation candidate Carlos Alvarez; Craig Rubin, who calls for revoking laws against marijuana use; blogger David “Zuma Dogg” Saltsburg; and write-in candidate Stevan Torres.

The most hotly debated questions were the capitalist economic crisis, Israel’s recent attacks on Palestinians in Gaza, and immigration.

Responding to a question on the lack of affordable housing in Los Angeles, Jennerjahn said the solution is to “unleash the power of the free-market system. Capitalism doesn’t oppress you, it makes life possible.”

“Put people before profits,” Alvarez countered. “The richest banks and corporations in Los Angeles should pay their share. I’m demanding an immediate moratorium on foreclosures.”

“We are living through the unleashed force of the so-called free market system and the product is a capitalist crisis that is battering working people around the world,” said Harris. “I am campaigning for the working class to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class and to reorganize society—putting our interests as a class first.”

As Alvarez answered a question from a student about Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s support of the Israeli government, three of Jennerjahn’s campaign supporters jumped to their feet. “I’m not going to stand for this!” one of them yelled.



Militant/Naomi Craine

Socialist Workers candidate James Harris speaks during February 25 debate of Los Angeles mayoral candidates. Other candidates shown from left are David Saltsberg, Craig Rubin (partially hidden), Walter Moore, and Phil Jennerjahn.

“When you attack Israel, you’re going against Judaeo-Christian values,” Jennerjahn added.

“I challenged Mayor Villaraigosa to a debate on this issue. We hand-delivered a letter to his office,” Harris said. “My campaign has participated in many of the demonstrations demanding that Israeli troops withdraw from Gaza. We campaign for a democratic, secular Palestine where Arabs, Jews, Christians, and non-believers can live as equals.”

Moore’s campaign targets immigrants as its central issue. Los Angeles is “turning into a Third World dump,” he states on his campaign Web site. “It’s time to fight back. It’s time to make L.A. a great place to live and do business, the way it used to be,” Moore says.

A sharp exchange took place between Moore and Harris when Moore

explained that if elected he would repeal Special Order 40, which prevents the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) from investigating the immigration status of an individual or reporting it to federal immigration cops. He also suggested that he would hire Joe Arpaio, the immigrant-bashing sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona, to head the LAPD.

“The first thing that I will do if elected is prosecute to the fullest extent of the law the cops who rioted against the May 1, 2007, peaceful protest in MacArthur Park for immigrant rights,” countered Harris. “My campaign supports legalization of all immigrants, without conditions, which is in the interests of all working people,” he continued to both applause and boos.

Socialist campaign supporter Luis Cueto, one of several workers who accompanied Harris to the debate, said that Moore supporters’ T-shirts caught his attention. “They said ‘no more Antonio,’ referring to Mayor Villaraigosa. But they mean no more Mexicans. I learned a lot from this experience.”

In the final week of the campaign, the Los Angeles affiliates of ABC and NBC TV, as well as the *Los Angeles Times*, the campus radio station of California State University at Los Angeles, and KPFK radio covered the Socialist Workers campaign.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

José Martí: Anti-imperialist Fighter. Speaker: Barbara Bowman, SWP. Fri., March 20, 7:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St., Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

U.S. Rulers Prepare for ‘Failed State’ in Mexico. Speaker: representative of SWP. Fri., March 20, 7:30 p.m. 1311 1/2 E. Lake St., 2nd floor. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

CANADA

Montreal

Jew-hatred and Conspiracy Theories Today: A Working-Class Response. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Fri., March 20, 7:30 p.m. 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

New Zealand, U.S. Troops Out of Afghanistan, Pakistan! Speaker: Ruth Gray, Communist League. Sat., March 21, 7 p.m. 7 Mason Ave., Suite 3, Otahuhu (Upstairs, above Laundromat). Tel.: (09) 276-8885.

U.S. gov’t talks with Syria to pressure Iran

Continued from front page

foreign minister Walid al-Moualem. “We had constructive, comprehensive talks,” Feltman said. “We found a lot of common ground.” These are the first such talks since relations between Washington and Damascus chilled after the 2005 assassination of Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri. A UN investigation has implicated Syrian security forces in the assassination.

Earlier, John Kerry, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met with Syrian president Bashar Assad in Damascus. Assad “told me he is prepared to resume peace negotiations with Israel and embrace the Arab Peace Initiative again,” Kerry said March 4, according to the Associated Press. Kerry said Assad recognizes that Syria’s “long-term interests lie not with Iran but with its Sunni neighbors and the West.”

Damascus joined the U.S. imperialist alliance in the first war against Iraq in 1990. It subsequently began negotiations with the Israeli government, offering a Syrian pledge of peace in exchange for a return of the Golan Heights, Syrian territory taken by the Israeli government during the 1967 war. The plan is known as the Arab Peace Initiative.

Clinton has announced that the government of Iran will be invited to a March 31 international conference Washington is planning on Afghanistan.

“In the early days of the military efforts by the United States and our allies to go after the Taliban and al-Qaeda, Iran was consulting with our ambassador on a daily basis,” Clinton noted. “Where it is appropriate and useful for the United States and others to see

whether Iran can be constructive, that will be considered.”

Washington-Tehran cooperation was cut short in 2002, when then-president George Bush gave a speech listing Iran as one of three nations comprising an “axis of evil.”

Tehran has been making its own overtures for talks with Washington. These began under the Bush administration. In an interview with the London-based *Guardian* published February 24, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, prime minister of Turkey, said the Iranian government had asked him to arrange talks with Washington that could possibly lead to establishing diplomatic relations. He said he personally conveyed this to Bush.

The Obama administration is trying to see if diplomatic means will be more effective than sanctions and military threats have been in convincing Tehran to abandon its nuclear program. Tehran says it is enriching uranium for peaceful use, not weapons.

Washington sees this as potentially a good time to try to divide the Iranian rulers, many of who would like an end to economic sanctions and other restrictions on trade and financial dealings, particularly with the sharp drop in the price of oil.

Asked on CNN March 1 if Iran had sufficient enriched uranium to produce an atomic bomb, Admiral Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, “We think they do, quite frankly.” But on NBC’s “Meet the Press” program the same day, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Iran was “not close to a [nuclear] weapon at this point” and that there is still time to try diplomacy, sanctions, and other means to convince

Tehran to end its nuclear program.

A top Israeli intelligence official said March 8 that negotiating now with Iran could only give it more time to produce a bomb. Israel Defense Forces Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin reported to the Israeli cabinet that Iran “has crossed the technological threshold.” He told the *Jerusalem Post*, “Iran is continuing to amass hundreds of kilograms of low-enriched uranium and it hopes to exploit the dialogue with the West and Washington to advance toward production of an atomic bomb.”

In a move to further pressure the Iranian government, a UN Security Council committee charged Tehran March 10 with violating sanctions against the export of weapons. In January a U.S. warship had boarded a vessel sailing from Iran and forced it to dock in Cyprus. According to the government of Cyprus, a search of the ship found weapons that Washington says were destined for Syria, possibly for Hezbollah or Hamas.

The UN imposed the sanctions on Iranian weapons exports in 2006 because Tehran had refused to halt its nuclear program.

—CALENDAR—

UNITED KINGDOM

Edinburgh

Women in Cuba—Celebrating 50 Years of the Revolution. Speaker: Carolina Amador Pérez, Federation of Cuban Women. Thurs., March 19, 7 p.m. Lecture Theatre 5, Appleton Tower, Crichton Street, Edinburgh University. Co-hosted by Gender & Politics Research Group (School of Social and Political Science) and Women of the World Society, in collaboration with Scottish Cuba Solidarity Campaign.

Chicago May Day march

Continued from front page

union did not defend the workers and we felt the union was in need of a push,” he said.

He and his coworkers began a campaign to stop the harassment. “We held them off for two years,” said Sergio, “but now the company is demanding again that we produce documentation. The important thing is to be united as workers, and not be intimidated.”

Maria Villagrana described working for a temporary service in Chicago called Staffing Network. “You arrive at 5:00 a.m. and don’t get sent out for a job until 7:30 or 8:00 a.m., or sometimes not at all,” she said.

“We don’t get paid for the waiting time. Temporary workers just get minimum wage, while the permanent workers make \$11 or \$12 an hour doing the same work. We need to stand up for the rights we do have, we need a union,” Villagrana said.

Marisol García was among 19 workers fired from a company making labels for medications. García explained that most workers are hired through the temporary agency.

“Our case is one of discrimination for being Latinas,” she said. “We do have papers and still they fired us because of supposedly not being fluent in English. We understand and we do a good job.” The workers have been fighting for six months to get back to work, or at least be paid severance.

Many others spoke, exchanging experiences from incidents of sexual harassment to arrests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Two women reported they were lured to a supposed hiring session in Indiana where they were arrested by ICE cops. They are currently forced to wear electronic monitoring ankle bracelets and are fighting the arrests. Participants also included day laborers and street vendors.

Alfonso Cerda, who works for a sign company, said that the company had divided white, Black, and Latino

workers. The Latinos had the lower wages and only half of them were represented by a union.

“We weren’t sure what to do and decided to go out on strike,” he said. All 12 workers were fired. But they kept fighting and were able to win their jobs back with three months’ back pay. “Now all of us workers keep up the fight under better circumstances, because now we are represented by IBEW Local 134 under one contract,” he said.

Workers also discussed the importance of pressing forward on the fight for legalization. Armando Robles, president of United Electrical Workers Local 1110, chaired the assembly. He worked at Republic Windows and Doors, the Chicago plant where laid-off workers sat in for a week in December and won 60 days’ pay and benefits due them under federal law. After describing the fight, Robles said, “We need to plan a large mobilization for May 1 in Chicago, to keep on fighting for legalization and workers rights.”

Workshops followed the workers assembly on topics that included opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the health-care crisis and its impact on immigrants, immigration legislation in 2009, and youth and student organizing.

Socialist candidate defends immigrant rights



Militant/Jorge Lertora

CHICAGO—Betsy Farley (standing with microphone), Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 5th District, addresses March 7 workers assembly held here as part of an immigrant rights conference. Farley is a meat packer and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1546.

A write-in candidate in a special election on April 7, Farley is running against Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley, a Democrat; Republican Rosanna Pulido, the founder of the anti-immigrant Illinois Minutemen Project; and Green Party candidate Matt Reichel. Farley recently attended an event in support of a woman’s right to choose abortion held at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she got a warm response when she spoke from the audience. She has also joined protests in Chicago and Washington, D.C., against the Israeli invasion of Gaza.

—ALYSON KENNEDY

Fidel Castro speeches published in Greece

BY THEODOROS MISAILIDES

THESSALONIKI, Greece—Some 50 people attended a presentation February 25 of the Greek-language edition of *In Defense of Socialism*. The meeting was held on the Macedonia University campus here, under the auspices of the chair of the Faculty of Philosophy and Pedagogy of Aristotle University. Macedonia and Aristotle are the two main universities in northern Greece.

The book contains four speeches, given in 1989 by Fidel Castro in the weeks surrounding the 30th anniversary of

the Cuban Revolution. In the speeches Castro takes up the main political challenges posed as Cuba’s working people fought to continue advancing along the road opened by the revolution on Jan. 1, 1959. The book was translated from the English edition published by Pathfinder Press in the United States.

Among the speakers at the meeting were José Cala, first secretary of the Cuban embassy in Greece; Harry Papanagos, a professor in the Balkan, Slavic, and Oriental Studies department of the University of Macedonia; Georgia

Mproni, who teaches at Aristotle University; Alexandros Mitsiou, graduate student at Aristotle; and Natasha Terlexis, representing the book’s publisher Diethnes Vima.

During the discussion Stavros Pannas, vice dean of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, asked, “Cuba has taken measures to open its economy to the world market. How is this different from what the Soviet Union did prior to its demise and what China is doing?”

“What openings Cuba has undertaken are controlled, and whatever profits are made are treated as a social product, used for the benefit of the community and not to enrich individuals,” responded Cala. “Right now we have important trade relations with a number of countries, but we are also preparing for the eventuality that we may find ourselves alone.”

Fotis Grigoriades and others from the Greek-Cuban Friendship Association pointed to the need for solidarity with Cuba because “the European Union is also part of the embargo on Cuba. It’s not only the U.S. government.”

Several people asked what will happen in Cuba when Fidel Castro dies. “When we got rid of Batista they said we would never survive,” Cala answered. “When we declared the socialist character of our revolution they called us a Soviet satellite. When the Soviet Union fell they said we would not last two days. But here we are 50 years on. And I invite you all to go to Cuba and talk to people in the streets. You will find people who love what they do, who believe in the future, and who greatly respect Fidel. His contributions will always be a part of our revolutionary process,” he said. Cala encouraged the editorial efforts being made to disseminate Fidel Castro’s works.

Eleven copies of the book were sold at the event.

Int’l court orders arrest of Sudan president

Continued from front page

and fostered by imperialism, continue to have a devastating toll on working people in the region.

The UN currently has about 15,000 troops in Darfur, but has approved sending a force of up to 26,000.

The warrant by the ICC, a court established by the United Nations, is the latest step in campaigns by imperialist powers to strengthen their domination of the region. Washington, which has targeted the Sudanese government going back to the 1980s, supports the prosecution.

The warrant charges al-Bashir with “attacks against a civilian population,” pillage as a war crime, as well as murder, extermination, forcible transfer, torture, and rape as crimes against humanity.

This is the first time the ICC has charged a sitting head of state since it was established in 2002. The warrant was issued by judges Akua Kuenyehia from Ghana, Sylvia Steiner from Brazil, and Anita Usacka from Latvia. According to the court’s founding treaty, signatory nations are required to detain al-Bashir if he enters their jurisdiction. Neither Sudan nor the United States have signed the ICC treaty.

Divisions among imperialist rivals were reflected around the charge of

genocide, which was argued by the prosecution but rejected by the court in a two-to-one decision. Washington has previously sought that charge in the UN, as it would open up more options for direct imperialist intervention. Some European powers, however, reject this course, fearing that U.S. dominance in the region would cut across their own national interests. Statements by top U.S. government officials and a resolution passed by the U.S. Congress have labeled the situation in Darfur as genocide, while the European Union and UN have both refused to use that term.

The governments of China, Russia, and Libya were among those on the UN Security Council who want the council to use its powers to suspend the ICC warrant. Beijing and Moscow both supply the Sudanese government with military hardware and hold lucrative oil contracts with Sudan.

Washington’s hostility towards Sudan goes back to when al-Bashir took power in a 1989 coup and refused to bow to the dictates of U.S. imperialism. It sided with Baghdad during the 1991 Gulf war, pursued closer ties with Libya, and joined in voting at the United Nations to condemn Israeli repression against the Palestinian people.

Haitians in South Florida rally to stop deportations

BY BERNIE SENTER

POMPANO BEACH, Florida—A spirited rally of 1,000 Haitians and their supporters assembled outside the Broward Transitional Center here February 28. They demanded that the U.S. government stop deporting Haitians and grant them Temporary Protected Status.

The Broward Transitional Center is a prison housing hundreds of Haitians awaiting deportation. The protest erupted with a cheer when Maria Rodriguez of the Florida Immigrant Coalition told the crowd that the prisoners could hear the rally. She led the crowd in a chant of “You are not alone.”

Four tropical storms pummeled Haiti last summer. Hundreds died and hundreds of thousands lost their homes as the storms washed away roads, bridges, and crops.

At the request of the Haitian government, Washington agreed to temporarily suspend deportation of undocumented Haitians living in the United States. In December the U.S. government resumed deportations and continued to deny Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians. The status would allow Haitians to continue to work and live in the United States. In response, the Haitian government is blocking the U.S. government from deporting Haitians back to the Caribbean country.

In mid-February, an immigration judge ordered that 30,299 Haitians be given their final deportation orders. Nearly all of those ordered deported were for noncriminal violations. Some 600 Haitians are being held in immigration jails, according to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. Another 243 have been released under a form of house

arrest and fitted with electronic monitoring ankle bracelets.

Barbara González, a spokeswoman for ICE, said that those who don’t return voluntarily would be considered fugitives. She said the government has “fugitive alien teams” across the country whose sole purpose is to capture people evading deportation orders.

Wyclef Jean, a famous Haitian musician, told the protest rally that granting TPS status was very important. “This is not a Haitian cause but a human cause. The 30,000 should get their just due. We should press President Obama to stop the deportation and give TPS to Haitians.”



Militant/Emily Paul

Demonstration February 28 in Pompano Beach in South Florida against deportations of Haitian immigrants. In mid-February a judge ordered the deportation of 30,299 Haitians.

Employment and production fall in Canada

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL—Unemployment is rising rapidly in Canada as industrial production and exports fall. The official unemployment rate is now at 7.2 percent. If “discouraged” unemployed workers and those working part-time involuntarily are added, the figure is more than 10 percent.

In January, 129,000 workers lost their jobs, 71,000 of them in Ontario where the auto industry is centered. Since October, 213,000 jobs have been lost across the country.

The owners of General Motors and Chrysler firms in Canada are demanding about \$10 billion (Can\$1=US 80 cents) in government handouts. Industry Minister Anthony Clement says auto workers in Canada will have to accept wage and benefit cuts equivalent to those in the United States. GM, which had 20,000 workers in Canada in 2005, projects having only 7,000 by 2010.

In December, manufacturing sales fell 8 percent from November. This was the fifth consecutive month of decline. An article in the *Globe and Mail* gave two reasons for the drop: falling prices for exports such as petroleum and forest products and weak demand for goods produced. Approx-

mately 75 percent of Canada’s exports are to the United States. In December Canada had its first trade deficit since 1976. Retail sales declined by 5.4 percent from the month before.

Prior to U.S. president Barack Obama’s visit to Canada February 19, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed “serious concern” over protectionist measures in Washington’s “stimulus” bill. It bans the use of most iron and steel from other countries in infrastructure projects.

“Albertans worry as boom goes bust,” headlined an article in the February 20 *Globe and Mail*. Alberta is the heart of Canada’s oil industry. In six months, \$200 billion in Canadian dollars worth of projects have been abandoned or put on hold. The provincial government is predicting a \$1 billion deficit for this year.

The Canada Housing and Mortgage Corp. is projecting that home building will drop by 24 percent in 2009. Pension plan assets fell by 15.9 percent in 2008, the worst year on record. One of the biggest pension funds in Canada, the Quebec-based Caisse de dépôt et placement, fell by 25 percent last year, losing \$39.8 billion. Average indebtedness of families rose to

its highest percentage in 2008: 127 percent of net annual income. In 1990 it was at 79 percent.

On January 27 the Conservative government proposed its budget, which projects \$40 billion in spending to try to boost the economy. About half is for construction projects and a one-year tax break for home renovations. The government says the budget should create 190,000 jobs over two years, which does not even cover the job losses since October. Another \$69 billion will be given to the banks to boost credit, bringing to \$200 billion the amount given to the banks since last fall. Cuts of transfer payments to the provinces were received coldly by the Liberal government in Quebec. The cuts will cost the province \$700 million in 2010.

The Liberal Party, Canada’s other dominant capitalist party, supported the budget. Last December, the Liberals formed a coalition with the opposition Bloc Quebecois and the New Democratic Party, threatening to bring down the minority Conservative government. The new Liberal leader, Michael Ignatieff, dropped this threat saying the budget contained some good elements.

March 21

Continued from front page

ue. The new administration has already launched some of the largest-scale and deadliest attacks since the war began.

At the same time, Washington is mounting pressure against the governments of Iran, North Korea, and Sudan.

The protest demands the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. The action also protests Washington’s support for Israel’s war against the Palestinian people.

Among the endorsers of the action, initiated by the ANSWER Coalition, are: the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation, National Council of Arab Americans, International Action Center, San Francisco Labor Council (AFL-CIO), the International Socialist Organization, Bay Area United for Peace and Justice, and many others.

According to the ANSWER Web site, there are buses going to the Washington action from at least 11 states: Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. Student groups are building the action and organizing transportation from their campuses, as are mosques and other organizations.

The protest in Washington will begin at noon on 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue NW and march to the Pentagon.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 23, 1984

When employees of the Thief River Falls, Minnesota, county office of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) arrived at work Wednesday morning, February 22, they found their office completely surrounded by a tractorcade made up of 20 powerful tractors, numerous large grain trucks, and several pickups, all driven by 100 angry farmers who are “fed up” with the callous and indifferent treatment they receive at local FmHA offices in northwestern Minnesota.

The farmers are members of the Northwestern Minnesota Emergency Action Committee, which was organized in July 1983 by Willard Brunelle, a farmer from Crookston, Minnesota. Brunelle told the *Militant* there are at least 3,000 farmers in five counties in northwestern Minnesota who are in trouble.



March 23, 1959

The revolt attempted by army officers two weeks ago in northern Iraq was completely smashed when Premier Kassim called upon the Iraqi workers and peasants to save his regime. The response of the masses was so great and so militant that it melted away most of the troops under the command of the insurgent militarists. In a last minute attempt to redeem themselves those troops still with Colonel Abdel Shawaf, the leader of the revolt, turned on him and killed him.

The power demonstrated by the Iraqi masses, and the fact that the Popular Resistance Forces (the militias) still retain their weapons, promise to give a new impulse to the Iraqi revolution. But the Iraqi masses’ victory is in the first place a serious defeat for American imperialism, which hopes to regain power in the Middle East.



March 24, 1934

The taxi drivers of New York City are striking back at the growing menace of company unions. The Panken-Ernst “settlement” of the February strike left the men without recognition of their union and constituted an encouragement to the fleet owners to proceed with the organization of company unions. The men struck.

After eight days of an indecisive struggle, the union called a general strike. The estimates of the response vary from 27 to 45 thousand. The main demand is recognition of the union and abolition of the black list.

The impending strike of the auto workers is of the utmost importance to the taxi drivers. Not only is the issue of the right of workers to organize in their own organizations the same, but both have exactly the same enemies in the most direct and immediate sense.

Books on 1930s Teamsters battles ‘show the necessity of revolutionary action’

Cuban unionists present Spanish editions of ‘Teamster Rebellion,’ ‘Teamster Power’

The following are remarks given at a February 18 event at the 2009 Havana International Book Fair presenting the Spanish-language editions of *Teamster Rebellion* and *Teamster Power*, published by Pathfinder Press. These are the first two of a four-volume series by Farrell Dobbs on the historic organizing drive by Minneapolis Local 574 of the Teamsters union in the Upper Midwest in the 1930s. The remarks reprinted below are by Miguel Toledo, general secretary of the National Sugar Workers Union of Cuba, and Martha Martínez, an advisor to the World Federation of Trade Unions, Americas region.

The meeting also presented *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* by Mary-Alice Waters, in a newly expanded Spanish-language edition. Two other speakers took up themes in that book: Yankiet Echevarría, international relations secretary of Cuba’s Federation of University Students, and Róger Calero, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and SWP candidate for U.S. president in 2008. The event was chaired by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press. A news report on this meeting appeared in the March 9 *Militant*.

The translations are by the *Militant*.



BY MIGUEL TOLEDO

We are very pleased to have received two volumes on events that occurred in the 1930s. Their origin is connected with the rebellion by the truck drivers of Local 574 that took place in Minnesota in 1934. Men and women wrote beautiful pages, with blood and sacrifices, in the city of Minneapolis in the U.S. Midwest.

As workers, we identify with the account that *compañero* Farrell Dobbs offers us in his books.

Who was Farrell Dobbs? This union and party leader is a worker who, while in his 20s, became one of the main leaders to emerge from the 1934 strikes. That year he joined the Communist League of America, forerunner of the Socialist Workers Party.



Militant/Ben Joyce

February 18 presentation of Spanish-language editions of *Teamster Rebellion*, *Teamster Power*, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* From left, Róger Calero of Socialist Workers Party; Martha Martínez, World Federation of Trade Unions, Americas region; Miguel Toledo, general secretary of National Sugar Workers Union; Yankiet Echevarría, Federation of University Students; and moderator Mary-Alice Waters.

He shouldered different responsibilities. In 1944, he and other compañeros of Local 574 and the SWP were jailed for a year in a federal prison for opposing the imperialist aims of the United States during World War II.

Teamster Rebellion shows us the harsh conditions suffered by workers, many of whom were of Scandinavian—Swedish or Norwegian—origin, in the early 1930s. Farrell himself was of Irish descent.

Over time Farrell became a citizen of the world, a proletarian internationalist who saw the present as part of history. He became one of the great mass organizers of the working class in the United States, as shown in the fact that 250,000 over-the-road truck drivers were organized, joining a worthy union.

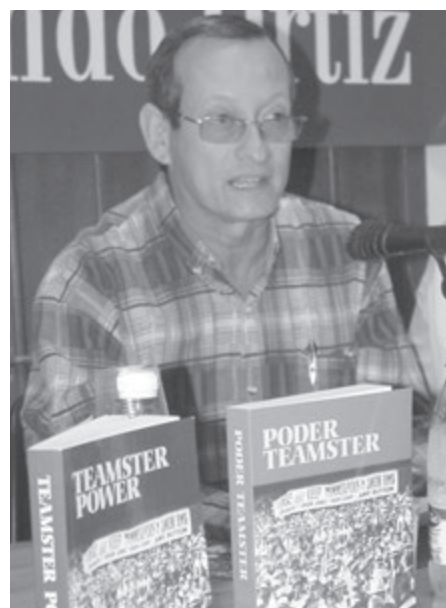
One example of his qualities as an organizer and the confidence he had in the most humble men to lead the struggle, was Ray Rainbolt, a Sioux Indian, who was elected to command the [union] defense guard, which had 600 members.

Compañeros and compañeras who are here today:

We want to thank the editorial staff of the *Militant* for the information we receive regularly, which allows us to be informed about important events

in North America and the rest of the world, based on a position of realism and the defense of the proletariat.

We are very grateful for the articles this weekly publishes regularly about the five Cuban heroes who remain unjustly incarcerated in U.S. prisons, contributing in this way to breaking the wall of silence surrounding that



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Miguel Toledo, general secretary of Cuba’s National Sugar Workers Union.

gross injustice. Such attitudes of solidarity in the very heart of the empire are examples to be emulated in order to counter the media disinformation by the great imperialist power.

We recently received an issue of the *Militant* with an article by Ben Joyce titled “The 1930s Teamsters Rebellion” with the following caption: “Members of Teamsters Local 574 during May 1934 strike in Minneapolis defend themselves against attack by cops and bosses’ hired thugs. ‘There was a war in Minneapolis . . . a conflict of poverty against wealth, of labor against capital.’”

Speaking about the great crisis of the 1930s, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz noted the following in one of his reflections:

“The character of the recession changed drastically when a series of bankruptcies in the Midwest and the South of the United States undermined confidence in the banks.”

Our own José Martí, referring to workers in the United States, wrote in 1886:

“Working people are standing up. . . . Things are not well when an upright and intelligent man who has worked all his life does not have bread, or a single saved peso, or the right to walk peacefully under the sun. . . .

“Things are not well when some live in leisure to the frustration of the miner, the docker, the train engineer.”

Those statements, by two of the most brilliant Cuban figures and patriots of all time, reflect their constant concern over the economic and social contradictions, the battles waged by the poorest in our neighbor to the north, as well as the ties of unity with the most deprived and needy sectors.

Having these books—in the midst of so many pages that are written to promote consumerism, banalities, and glitter—provides a magnificent and much-needed contrast and encouragement, today in the 21st century, to continue the struggle for the exploited of the world.

The powerful media in the wealthy world have no interest in how workers live. They are interested in them to the extent that they produce surplus value.

“As workers we identify with the account that *compañero* Farrell Dobbs offers us in his books.”

The lessons of these struggles offer a reference point in a genuine epic—the contradictions between the love of those who produce the wealth and the barons who are insatiable in their vengeance and thirst for blood.

One example, in this great book that we are discussing, is described on page 170, chapter 10, titled “Bloody Friday”:

Forty-seven men lay on cots, their bodies riddled with bullet wounds.

Sixty-seven people were wounded.

“You thought you would shoot Local 574 into oblivion. But you only succeeded in making 574 a battlecry.”

Rebelión Teamster is not a “manual” or a handbook, as Jack Barnes said. It is the record of a concrete experience in the class struggle.

We can add that it is enjoyable reading that reflects the contradictions of a system condemned to disappear.



BY MARTHA MARTÍNEZ

I would like to thank Pathfinder Press for the opportunity you have offered the World Federation of Trade Unions in the Americas to participate in this presentation.

I have two reasons for this acknowledgment:

First, because with this invitation Pathfinder distinguishes itself from those hegemonic forces—including, of course, the information monopolies—that have proclaimed the death of an organization that for more than 60 years has remained faithful to the working class, and that they seek to exclude and isolate at a time when it is rising with renewed strength in the international arena in defense of the class struggle, because its thinking and its call to action.

Continued on page 7

Recommended reading

Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs

This is the first in the series on the class-struggle leadership of the strikes and organizing drives that transformed the Teamsters union in the Midwest into a fighting social movement and pointed the road toward independent labor political action. —\$19

Teamster Power by Farrell Dobbs

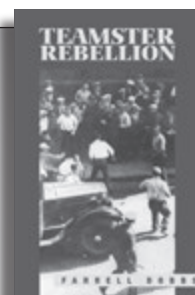
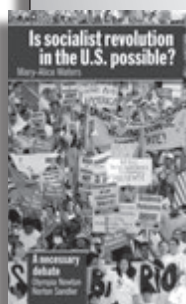
Teamster Power describes the growth and consolidation of the Teamsters union in Minneapolis and its class-struggle leadership, and the 11-state over-the-road organizing campaign that brought union power for the first time to much of the Midwest. —\$19

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible? By Mary-Alice Waters

“To conclude that a socialist revolution in the U.S. is not possible, you would have to believe that the ruling families have found a way to ‘manage’ capitalism so there won’t again be world-shaking economic, financial, or social crises.”

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Teamsters book panel

Continued from page 6

tion are considered a threat to the interests of this savage and voracious capitalism.

Secondly, for giving us the privilege of reading this first edition in Spanish of the Teamster books.

I confess that, personally, I arrived here having overcome—at least I think so—an internal debate over how I should comment on these books. I



Militant/Ben Joyce

Martha Martínez of Americas region of World Federation of Trade Unions.

didn't know whether there were certain rules or protocols, which I confess I'm not aware of. But in the end I decided to go by my instincts and a basic idea: to awaken an interest in reading a first-hand account that cannot be considered past history because its most striking feature is its ability to convey a well-developed and valuable understanding for today's union movement. A practical experience of working-class struggle.

The "rebellion" that the book by Dobbs describes is the strike by workers who, exploited and deprived of their rights at a time of depression, were able to overcome the timid union bureaucracy that was paralyzing them, organize themselves, prepare for a strike, launch the strike when the doors on negotiations were shut, and then resist, defend themselves, and defeat the bosses and opportunist politicians.

They did this with a collective leadership that was uncorrupted and that won the cooperation of other sectors through the genuine practice of working-class solidarity.

The causes and conditions that led Teamsters Local 574 to struggle to defend their union, fight for their rights, and consolidate workers power, and the challenges and obstacles they had to overcome to win their victory, are similar to those that exist today in the United States and the majority of capitalist countries.

This crisis, whose effects have already devastated thousands of laid-off workers and impoverished families during the wave of neoliberalism, is a result of the same economic model and the vices associated with it: speculation, individualism, and greed.

The first lesson this rebellion of 1934 offers us is that a period of crisis is also a time of opportunity for transformation and change, an opportunity to strengthen the historic agent of this change and advance the class struggle.

The author, Farrell Dobbs, addresses this reality in all its richness and diversity, identifying the agents and social forces that play a role and the actions

carried out by each of them.

Seventy-five years ago, as these events show, in the labor movement there was also a bureaucracy, a conciliatory way of thinking, and opportunist leaders tied directly or indirectly to those who had political and economic power. These manipulators tried with their "good speeches" to convince people of the need for "dialogue," and were averse to class confrontation.

But the workers did not let themselves be demobilized. They united, proving the correctness of Marxist philosophy as written in the second thesis [by Karl Marx] on Feuerbach: "Man must prove the truth—i.e. the reality and power, the this-worldliness of his thinking in practice."

Attacks on revolutionary Marxism, on the rights of the working class, on its class consciousness and class struggle, are designed to try to convince the exploited that the capitalist order is the only thing possible.

But regardless of the changes that have occurred in class structure and relations, and in capital's methods of domination, the reality we are experiencing today is still capitalism, based on exploitation, domination, and alienation.

"A period of crisis is also a time of opportunity to strengthen the historic agent of change and advance the class struggle."

Class struggle is manifesting itself in the 21st century, and forcefully so. It is not a belief in the minds of a group of crazy people or dogmatists clinging to the ideas of a senile Marxism. Class struggle is the result of an irreconcilable antagonism between capital and labor, between workers and the popular sectors, on one side, and an increasingly totalitarian oligarchy, on the other.

This book, compañeros, with its narrative power and honesty, subtly rouses our consciousness, taking us from the combative enthusiasm of the masses to the suffering and outrage of "Bloody Friday"—the violent face of the Empire.

The reader can picture and feel the



Militant/Ben Joyce

Audience members crowd around sales table after meeting to buy *Teamster Rebellion*, *Teamster Power*, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* in Spanish and English.

pain of those bodies shot in the back, and how this pain, grief, and outrage overpower their fear and renew their strength to rescue the wounded, carry out solidarity, keep fighting, and in the end, feel the satisfaction that brings consciousness and heart together in the moment of victory, the first victory, which serves as a basis and encouragement for the subsequent achievement of workers power.

This is *Teamster Rebellion*, this is *Teamster Power*: the reaffirmation that

the path of action is the only valid antidote to challenge and overcome the tyrannical power of capital.

Its lesson for our own times is the necessity and urgency of taking up revolutionary action.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to Pathfinder, a publishing house that—like the *Organizer* of those days, the strikers' newspaper—broke through the barriers of silence and manipulation by the power of the media, to proclaim the truth of revolutionary thought.



Militant/Ben Joyce

Audience of 90 at book presentation. Participants were eager to learn about the rich history and lessons of the class struggle in the United States.

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Malcolm X: A course of conduct to

Revolutionary struggle, not conspiracy schemes, offers road forward for opp

Reprinted below are the remarks by Steve Clark at a February 21 forum on the 44th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. Clark is the editor of several collections of speeches by Malcolm X published by Pathfinder Press and a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee.

The forum was held at the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, at the site of the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem where Malcolm X was fatally shot at the podium on Feb. 21, 1965. A report on the meeting appeared in the March 16 issue of the Militant.

I'm glad to be here with all of you this evening to help keep alive the legacy of one of the 20th century world's most outstanding revolutionary leaders of working people, and of the struggle for Black freedom—Malcolm X. And not just a legacy, but above all a course of conduct to emulate.

There is much we may never know about Malcolm's assassination in this very hall 44 years ago, since there are so many forces—the FBI and other federal police agencies, the New York cops, and those in and around what was then the leadership of the Nation of Islam—who have a stake in covering up the truth.

What I want to focus on, however, is the *political course* Malcolm was on during the final year of his life that made him so dangerous to—and so hated by—all those who unsuccessfully sought to prevent his example from becoming better known.

Evolution didn't end in Mecca

In his book *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*, Barack Obama—the newly inaugurated president and commander-in-chief of the world's final empire—has this to say: “If Malcolm's discovery toward the end of his life, that some whites might live beside him as brothers in Islam, seemed to offer some hope of eventual reconciliation, that hope appeared in a distant future, in a far-off land.”

But Barack Obama gives us only the Malcolm of the *Autobiography*. Like many who seek to deny Malcolm's *revolutionary* political course during the final months of his life, Obama freezes Malcolm's political evolution in April

1964, with the pilgrimage to Mecca. It's as if Malcolm had been assassinated 10 months before he actually was. Spike Lee's movie does the same thing.

This is standard for those who would turn Malcolm into a moral or religious reformer, instead of a political leader who acted on the reality that the concessions working people win under capitalism are always a by-product of revolutionary struggle.

It's standard for those who hold onto Malcolm X as a nationalist, rather than an internationalist champion of struggles by the oppressed and exploited the world over.

And we even hear it these days from some who try to twist and disfigure Malcolm X into a beacon of the growing minority among African Americans in the professional and middle classes who distance themselves more and more—socially *and politically*—from the great mass of working people, whose living and job conditions continue to get worse, and in whose interests Malcolm fought and died.

“Malcolm X detested methods of demagoguery and thuggery picked up from dog-eat-dog social relations of capitalism . . .”

Yes, of course, if all Malcolm's legacy amounted to was the hope that “some whites might eventually live beside him as brothers in Islam”—then, certainly, that's quite a reach for the transformation of the United States and most of the rest of the world! It is a hope for “a distant future”—at the very best.

Malcolm's political legacy

But Mecca was *not* the culmination of Malcolm's evolution. He lived, learned, spoke, and fought for another 10 months!

And dozens of Malcolm's speeches, interviews, and letters from those months are available in books kept in print primarily by Pathfinder Press. All of us can study—and work to emulate—what Malcolm actually said and set out to achieve.

In them we discover the Malcolm who—when asked by a *Village Voice* interviewer, just a few weeks before



Malcolm X with students at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Feb. 3, 1965.

he was killed, whether his aim was to awaken Blacks to their *exploitation*—immediately shot back: “No, to their humanity, to their *own worth*.”

There we find the Malcolm who spoke out against those who don't give women “incentive by allowing her maximum participation in whatever area of the society where she's qualified.” Whatever country you visit, Malcolm said, “the degree of progress can never be separated from the woman.”

We find the Malcolm who rejected the Nation of Islam's opposition to intermarriage, saying: “I believe in recognizing every human being as a human being—neither white, black, brown, or red. . . . It's just one human being marrying another human being, or one human being living around and with another human being.”

It's during those 10 months that we find the Malcolm who sought to unify the broadest layers—irrespective of religious beliefs, or absence of religious beliefs—in militant *political action* against every manifestation of racist bigotry, of capitalism's economic and social exploitation, and of murderous imperialist wars—from the Congo, to Vietnam, to Cuba at the time, and today we can add Iraq, Gaza, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (where missile strikes by the Obama administration in recent weeks have killed at least 30 people).

In order to join in these struggles effectively, Malcolm said, you have to keep “your religion at home, in the closet”—because whether you are “a Methodist or a Baptist or an atheist or an agnostic,” or a Muslim, the oppressed catch the same hell.

Internationalist revolutionary

It's during those 10 months that we find the Malcolm who told the *Young Socialist* magazine that his recent visits to Africa and the Middle East—meeting fellow fighters of all hues of complexion—had convinced him to stop referring to the course he advocated as “Black nationalism,” because, as Malcolm put it: “I was alienating people who were *true revolutionaries* dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary.”

And that system has a name: *capitalism*. “You can't operate a capitalistic system unless you are vulturistic,”

Malcolm told a Harlem rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity—in this very ballroom—in December 1964. And three days prior to his assassination he told a meeting at Columbia University, just a few blocks from here, “We are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.”

Malcolm X recognized it was necessary for African Americans and other oppressed and exploited working people and youth *to together make a revolution* in the United States, to take power out of the hands of the racist and war-making capitalist rulers. He was an internationalist revolutionary, part of a political convergence of revolutionary leaderships of the toilers from North America, to Cuba, Algeria, and elsewhere in Africa and the Americas.

Malcolm argued that this is a worldwide struggle, against a worldwide social system that not only expropriates the wealth that working people create with our labor. But above all, a system that denies us the human solidarity and civilization that social labor makes possible—that denies us, in Malcolm's words, “our humanity, our own worth.”

Let me close with a few words about

For further reading

Revolution, Internationalism and Year of Malcolm X in New Internationalism by Jack Barnes

Malcolm's last year illustrates how, in revolutionary leadership of the highest age and integrity converges with comm

February 1965: The Final Speeches of Malcolm X

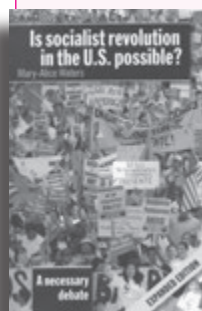
Speeches from the last three weeks of the oppressed Black nationality and of the large part is material previously unavailable. —\$19

Is Socialist Revolution Possible? By Mary-Alice Waters

“To conclude that a socialist revolution is possible, you would have to find a way to ‘manage’ the world-shaking economic

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Many participants at meeting purchased books from Pathfinder Press, including a variety of titles by or about Malcolm X and the possibility of revolution in the United States.

to emulate oppressed and exploited

what we can and must learn from Malcolm's assassination itself. We know that the U.S. rulers—and their massive political police apparatus at federal, state, and local levels—carry out systematic spying, harassment. And, when they need to, murderous violence against opponents of their policies.

Pathfinder publishes many titles detailing these cop operations against unions, fighters for Black liberation, communists and socialists, the movement against the Vietnam War, women's rights activists, and others: *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom* and *FBI on Trial: The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit against Government Spying*, among the many.

In the course of a 15-year-long campaign against the FBI and other federal cop agencies conducted by the political party I am a member of, the Socialist Workers Party—which ended in 1986 in a victorious federal court ruling against the U.S. government—the judge's decision documented 204 burglaries of party offices between 1945 and 1966—*that's 204!*; the use of 1,300 paid informers against the SWP between 1960 and 1976, including 300 planted as members; as well as firings, evictions, and so on.

We know the Chicago cops brutally assassinated Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton while he was sleeping in his bed in 1969. And since the 1959 revolution in Cuba, Washington has organized more than 600 failed assassination attempts against Fidel Castro. And there are many, many other examples.

We have the right and the duty to demand that the government release all the files on their disruption operations against those involved in popular struggles here and around the world.

But those of us engaged on various fronts of the fight against exploitation and oppression need to look at and draw lessons from an even more fundamental political question. Because as Malcolm and other revolutionary leaders have taught us, it is how *we act*,

Socialism: The Last International No. 14

the imperialist epoch,
political capacity, cour-
tunism. —\$14

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the life of this outstanding leader of the
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ic, financial, or social crises."

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Militant/Maura DeLuca

Speakers at meeting on assassination of Malcolm X, from left to right: Malaak Shabazz, one of Malcolm X's daughters (at podium); chairperson Dowoti Désir, executive director, Shabazz Center; John Judge, director, Coalition on Political Assassinations; Steve Clark, editor of several Pathfinder books of speeches by Malcolm X; professor James Small, trustee of Shabazz Center; Wynne Alexander, WDAS radio; and William Pepper, attorney and author of *Orders to Kill, Act of State*. Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid, a trustee of Shabazz Center, also spoke.

what we say and *do*, how *we organize to resist*—in face of inevitable spying, provocations, and violence by the exploiters, which will continue so long as they hold state power—that ultimately settles defeat or victory. How *we* do it—not how someone does it for us.

The U.S. rulers wanted to get rid of Malcolm X. However much is still hidden from us, it's clear nonetheless

"Focusing attention on alleged conspiracies takes our eyes away from reality that source of society's ills is capitalist system . . ."

that Malcolm *was assassinated* by individuals in or around the organization he had been a leader of as recently as 18 months earlier: the Nation of Islam.

The U.S. rulers hated and feared the Grenada Revolution. But Maurice Bishop, its outstanding leader, was assassinated by a Stalinist gang *within* the governing New Jewel Movement, which in the process—as Fidel Castro so accurately explained—not only destroyed the revolution but handed the island over to U.S. imperialism on a silver platter.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Washington sent U.S. Special Forces to help the government in El Salvador defeat worker and peasant struggles led by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, the FMLN. But world-class FMLN leaders such as Roque Dalton and Commander Ana María were brutally assassinated not by these U.S. or Salvadoran rightist squads, but by others within their own organization.

The U.S. government salted the Black Panther Party in the 1960s and early 1970s with scores of paid snitches. But why were these cop provocateurs able to get away with murderous internal violence and thuggery on such a scale in the Panthers that the organization was literally torn apart?

Intolerable methods

These are intolerable methods that the Stalinist movement in the 1930s picked up from the dog-eat-dog social relations of capitalism and injected into the unions and organizations of the oppressed.

Malcolm X hated these methods. He came to detest demagoguery and thuggery. He knew what the cops and racist bigots were capable of. He knew the brutality he had been trained in as a leader of the Nation of Islam and its paramilitary Fruit of Islam. As he said of the Nation the day before his death, "I know what

they can do, and what they can't, and they can't do some of the stuff recently going on."

Beatings of Malcolm's supporters and attempts on his own life escalated in early 1965, including the fire-bombing of his house that could have killed his daughters and his wife Betty.

Malcolm's greatest concern was the blows being struck to the fight for liberation by the systematic violence being carried out by an organization claiming to speak on behalf of the oppressed—the Nation of Islam. "As we fight one another, they continue to rule," Malcolm said.

There's another, related lesson we must internalize, as a habit. The U.S. ruling families don't operate primarily on the basis of plots and conspiracies. They don't need to. *They hold state power*—the armed forces, the cops, courts, and prisons. They control the schools, the major newspapers, TV and radio stations.

Above all, their economic system exploits workers and farmers here and around the world, wrings unimaginable wealth from our labor, and reproduces those oppressive social relations every day, every week, every month, every year.

However great our justified distrust of the rulers and their government, focusing our attention on alleged conspiracies takes our eyes *off* these fundamental realities—that the source of society's ills is the capitalist system, and we must organize a mass revolutionary movement of working people to take political power from the hands of the exploiting class.

What's more, by diverting attention from our class enemy—for us in the United States, the capitalist rulers *in this country*, first and foremost—the endless pursuit of conspiracies too often ends up in scapegoating and baiting: *Cui bono? Who benefits?* Like the widely circulated anti-Semitic libel that Jews employed at the World Trade Center were warned beforehand not to come work on September 11.

Or the scapegoats can be the communists. Or anarchists. Or immigrants who are supposedly taking "our" jobs. Or the Blacks who are taking "our" spots in college and in graduate schools. Or feminists. Or greedy unions.

It's all grist for the mill of the ultraright.

Capitalist crisis, civil debate

Capitalism is being shaken *worldwide* by the deepest contraction of production and trade since the Great Depression of the 1930s. And it has just begun.

Millions are being thrown onto the streets, with the hammer blows falling heaviest on workers who are African American or foreign-born. The capitalists are fanning reactionary trade protectionism, America Firstism, and assaults on immigrant workers. Jew-baiting is again on the march, as during the crisis of the 1920s and 1930s.

As the crisis of the capitalist system accelerates, there will be mounting resistance by working people in the United States and around the world.

As we organize to combat the wealthy families who own and control industry, the banks, land, and trade—as well as the Democratic and Republican parties that represent their class interests on the political level—it is essential that within the organizations of the working class and oppressed, we stand guard in defense of our ability to exchange experiences and opinions *above all* in a civil manner, to put opposing views to the test and draw a balance sheet—as we fight shoulder to shoulder for goals we share in common.

If we are able to do that, then we will truly be drawing on the enduring political contribution of the man who we are here to remember this evening—to remember accurately, and completely.

There is no better moment than in tumultuous times we've entered to recall the words Malcolm X spoke at Oxford University in the UK a little more than 44 years ago, when he said that "the young generation of whites, Blacks, browns, whatever else there is," you're living in "a time of revolution." And "I for one will join in with anyone, I don't care what color you are, as long as you want to change this miserable condition that exists on this earth."



Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, leader of Grenada Revolution. Like Malcolm X he was hated and feared by U.S. rulers. A Stalinist gang within governing New Jewel Movement assassinated Bishop in 1983, giving Washington pretext to invade Grenada.

Build March 21 antiwar actions!

Working people and youth repulsed by Washington's war drive should mobilize March 21 for the national antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C.

The march to the Pentagon will demand all U.S. troops out of Afghanistan and Iraq and will protest Washington's support for Tel Aviv's assaults against the Palestinian people.

Washington is escalating its war in Afghanistan—and in Pakistan—and has announced it will maintain what will effectively be a garrison force in Iraq.

The U.S. military began joint exercises in South Korea March 9 aimed at North Korea, involving more than 26,000 U.S. and 30,000 South Korean troops. And the U.S. government has threatened to shoot down a communications satellite Pyongyang plans to launch.

Under the banner of "humanitarian concern," the U.S. government and other imperialist powers are preparing to seize upon the mass sectarian killings in Darfur as a pretext to strengthen their domination of that region.

Washington continues to threaten the world with its massive nuclear arsenal as it develops an antiballistic missile system to re-establish first-strike capability. To maintain its unmatched strategic advantage, Washington seeks to prevent the development and spread of nuclear technology, denying other semicolonial nations such as Iran the right to develop the energy resources they choose in order to expand electrification—a pre-

condition for economic and social development.

The accelerating war drive by Washington and its current allies and rivals is an inevitable by-product of the unfolding worldwide economic crisis with its intensifying competition between imperialist powers. And the crisis has barely begun.

The U.S. rulers will seek to crank up their war machine in this period. Not only to more effectively defend their interests in the world, but as the one area where they can spend government funds to boost their declining industrial production without competing with private capital.

This course is nothing new. The New Deal, for example, was a War Deal. Its inevitable consequence was to drag workers in the United States into the bloody inter-imperialist slaughter known as World War II.

The imperialists are preparing for a period of incessant wars abroad, which flow from their mounting attacks on the living standards and rights of workers at "home." Capitalism will continue to inflict its death and misery on the world's toilers—until the wages system is replaced with the rule of working people, as it has been in Cuba.

Protests against the imperialist war drive—as are the upcoming demonstrations for legalization of immigrants on May 1—are part of defending the interests of the international working class.

All out for March 21! Not one penny, not one soldier for Washington's wars!

U.S. war exercises threaten North Korea

Continued from front page

year's exercise, set to last 12 days, is longer than usual.

North Korea has put its military of more than 1 million members on full combat readiness in response to the hostile maneuvers. It has also cut off all direct communications with Seoul and has said it cannot guarantee the safety of South Korean flights over or near its borders.

In addition to the war games, Washington and Tokyo have said they could shoot down the north's rocket launch "if necessary," reports the *Wall Street Journal*. Pyongyang says that the rocket will carry the Kwangmyongsong 2 communications satellite to be used for peaceful purposes only, while the U.S. and Japanese governments suggest it will be testing the Taepodong 2 ballistic missile. "We've indicated our position to them on the question of the missile launch or satellite launch, or whatever

they call it," said Stephen Bosworth, the U.S. special envoy to Pyongyang, March 7. "We think it's very ill advised."



31st Marine Expeditionary Unit
South Korean troops join U.S. marines in military exercises March 9. More than 50,000 South Korean and U.S. troops are involved in the 12-day "war games."

LETTERS

A prisoner's studies

I am 24 years old and incarcerated in a Maryland prison. My studies are surrounded by Marx and Engels's *Communist Manifesto*; Engels's *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*; John Stuart Mill's *Principles of Political Economy*; Marx's *Wage Labor and Capital* and *Value, Price and Profit*; Noam Chomsky's *The Prosperous Few and the Restless Many*; V.I. Lenin's *State and Revolution*.

I will be subscribing to your newspaper with my next letter.

*A prisoner
Maryland*

Capitalism has crashed

Capitalism has crashed and burned in front of our eyes. Pundits say we must expect periodic crashes that wipe out the savings of millions of Americans, and that this is just the cost of "free enterprise." This cost must be too high because the ruling class manages

not to pay it. They turn to the government with their hands out and walk away with the cash while the citizens get the bill.

*John King
Tampa, Florida*

Listeriosis scandal again

Last summer, 20 Canadians died after developing the food-borne illness listeriosis. The outbreak, which was traced to tainted meat processing at a Maple Leaf Foods plant in Toronto, highlighted deficiencies in Canada's food safety system and has become a political millstone around the neck of the

Harper government.

Now the scandal has taken a new turn. The government is being accused of dragging its feet on the release of key information about the health crisis. The charge stems from an Access to Information Act request by the Canadian Press to the Privy Council for "all transcripts and minutes" of government conference calls that took place in August and September. The council said it needed more time to consult other agencies, delaying its response for four months in possible violation of the act.

*Michael Pennock
Alexandria, Minnesota*

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

World trade

Continued from front page

factory workers were cut back to three or four days a week, and there have been wage cuts.

Some 200,000 workers have been put on long-term unpaid vacations in Taiwan, where exports, especially of electronics, have declined by more than 50 percent. In Cambodia, bosses cut 30,000 jobs in the garment industry. In India, more than half a million jobs were eliminated in the last three months of 2008, including in the auto and textile industries, according to the World Bank.

Among those feeling the brunt of the crisis are migrant workers employed in plants throughout Southeast Asia. In Malaysia, the government is expelling 100,000 Indonesian workers. In Singapore, Credit Suisse economists project that 200,000 immigrants—one in every 15 workers there—will have to leave Singapore by the end of next year.

Remittances by immigrant workers to their families back home are sharply down. Kyrgyzstan, which relies on remittances for 27 percent of its gross domestic product, is now requesting emergency food aid from the UN World Food Program.

In China, the jobs of some 20 million migrant workers who left the countryside to work in the cities were cut. Many are going home. However, about 13 million of them no longer have family farms to return to because they were sold for construction of shopping malls, offices, and apartments, Renmin University professor Yao Yuqun told the *Washington Post*.

14 million in U.S. unemployed

More than 14 million workers in the United States are without jobs due to the accelerating contraction of capitalist production. Another 8.6 million workers are forced into part-time work, unable to get full-time jobs.

According to the Labor Department, the bosses eliminated 651,000 jobs in February, boosting the official unemployment rate to 8.1 percent, or 12.5 million workers. In addition, another 2.1 million are not counted as unemployed by the government, which claims these workers are either "discouraged" or haven't looked for work over the past four weeks. The real rate of unemployment and underemployment rose to 14.8 percent last month.

The day the February unemployment figures were announced, President Barack Obama visited Columbus, Ohio, to hail the recently passed \$787 billion "stimulus plan" for saving jobs of 25 police recruits there. The plan's promise to create—or save—3.5 million jobs over the next two years will have a minimal impact on the 23 million workers, with the numbers rising, still seeking full-time work.

Factory orders declined in January for the sixth straight month—the longest consecutive decline since tracking these figures began in 1992—wiping out many industrial jobs. In February 168,000 manufacturing jobs were cut, most of them in industries producing durable goods—machinery, electronics, furniture, and metals.

Construction employers cut 104,000 jobs in February. Since January 2007, 1.1 million construction jobs have been eliminated. The unemployment rate for construction workers is more than 21 percent.

Official unemployment for Blacks and Latinos has risen over the past month to 13.4 percent and 10.9 percent respectively.

The long-term unemployed, those the government lists as being jobless for 27 weeks or more, increased in February by 270,000 to 2.9 million. At the same time a record number of people—31.8 million—are now on food stamps.

In Puerto Rico, the government announced plans to eliminate the jobs of 30,000 public workers in order to cut spending by \$2 billion per year. Taxes would also be raised on cigarettes, wine, and beer. "It's up to us to confront the bitter reality that the government is bankrupt," stated Puerto Rican governor Luis Fortuño in a March 3 television address.

In response, hundreds of public workers rallied in front of the governor's mansion March 6 to protest the firing of these workers over the next few months. Among those participating were members of the Central Union of Puerto Rican Workers, the Puerto Rican Workers Federation (AFL-CIO), Change to Win, and the Teachers Federation.